

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An insoluble powder having a negative value of ~~characterized in that the zeta-potential is negative value,~~ and a main ingredient of is barium sulfate;

wherein said insoluble powder has an average primary particle diameter of 3 to 100  $\mu$ m and an aspect ratio of 3 to 250.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An insoluble powder having a negative value of ~~characterized in that the zeta-potential is negative value,~~ and a main ingredient of is ~~metal doped~~ barium sulfate doped with a metal ion;

wherein said powder has an average primary particle diameter of 3 to 100  $\mu$ m and an aspect ratio of 3 to 250.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The insoluble powder according to Claim 2, wherein said ~~powder is a metal dope~~ barium sulfate ~~powder~~ is obtained by reacting a barium ion and a sulfate ion in the presence of a metal ion.

Claim 5 (original): The insoluble powder according to Claim 4, wherein a mole ratio of the barium ion, the sulfate ion and the metal ion is 1:0.5 to 2:0.001 to 10.

Claims 6-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A skin external composition comprising 1-40% by weight of said insoluble ~~characterized in that a content of the powder according to Claim 1 is 1 to 40 % by weight. .~~

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for recovering barrier function in a skin comprising: applying an effective amount an use of the insoluble powder according to Claim 1 to said skin as a skin barrier function recovering agent.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for preventing roughness and improving conditions of a skin comprising: applying an effective amount an use of the insoluble powder according to Claim 1 to said skin as a skin roughening preventing and improving agent.

Claims 12-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A skin external composition comprising 1-40% by weight of said insoluble ~~characterized in that a content of the powder according to Claim 2 is 1 to 40 % by weight.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for recovering barrier function in a skin, comprising: applying to said skin an effective amountn-use of the insoluble powder according to of Claim 2 as a skin barrier function recovering agent.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for preventing roughness and improving conditions of a skin comprising: applying an effective amount an use of the insoluble powder according to Claim 2 as a skin roughening preventing and improving agent.

Claim 18 (new): The insoluble powder according to claim 2, wherein said metal ion is one selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium and zinc.

Appl. No. 10/509,539  
Amdt. dated December 31, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of July 2, 2007